REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3, 5, 8-11, 16 and 17 remain in the application for consideration. Claims 1, 9 and 17 are amended herein to more clearly define the applicant's invention over the newly cited prior art, particularly the newly cited Moore patent.

As defined in amended Claims 1 and 17, in the applicant's apparatus the plurality of memory locations, each of which stores unique distance-measurement data, are each respectively electrically connected to an associated one of the plurality of spaced, insulated contacts located along the path of movement of the movable member. In this arrangement, only the contact that is located at the position of the movable member, and thus uniquely makes electrical contact with the movable member, applies a control signal to the memory location to which it is uniquely connected. This control signal is effective to transfer stored distance-measurement data stored only in the memory location to which the control signal is thus applied to an output display device.

Although Moore is admittedly more relevant to the applicant's invention than the previously cited prior art, the two independent claims 1 and 17, particularly as herein amended, are believed to define the applicant's invention in a manner that clearly distinguishes it over the caliper disclosed by Moore. It is submitted that Moore teaches a different approach to position measurement that actually teaches away from the applicant's claimed distance-measurement apparatus and method.

In the Moore caliper, particularly as described in Figs. 5B-5D and at col. 8, lines 9-25 and col. 9, lines 43-62, the movable member or wiper 57 rotates to an angular position along a potentiometer 55 to provide an analog voltage that is proportional to the angle between the caliper arms 12 and 14. That analog voltage is converted to a corresponding digital signal in A/D converter 58, which, in turn, supplies a digital address signal to a look-up table in logic 62. The addressed, stored angular position data in the look-up table is applied to an output device 64.

Moore, however, differs from the applicant's claimed apparatus in several significant aspects. First, Moore does not include the claimed "plurality of spaced contacts insulated from one another". Instead, as noted, Moore employs a potentiometer in which all the resistive elements are connected electrically in series to provide a variable resistance depending on the relative angular position of the wiper.

In addition, and perhaps of even greater significance, is the fact that Moore does not teach or remotely suggest connecting a plurality of insulated contacts in a one-to-one relationship with the corresponding memory-storing locations in a memory so that a

control signal is applied only from the contact then engaged by the movable member to its associated memory location, thereby to transfer the distance-measurement data stored in that memory location to an output device. In fact, it would not be feasible to connect the Moore potentiometer to the logic circuit in the claimed manner because of the lack of electrical insulation between the segments of the potentiometer that are sequentially engaged by the wiper as it moves along the path of the potentiometer.

Applicant submits that these fundamental differences between his claimed apparatus and method and that disclosed by Moore warrant a withdrawal of any finding of anticipation by, or obviousness over, Moore considered either alone or in combination with any other of the prior art cited previously or in the most recent Office Action. It is accordingly submitted that the claims as herein presented are allowable over this prior art, and an indication to this effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

This is to certify that the foregoing Corrected Response to Office Action was sent to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Arlington, Virginia 22313-1450 by first-class overnight Mail, postage prepaid on May 1, 2007.

Marvin N. Gordon

AMENDED CLAIMS

1. An apparatus for measuring the distance traveled along [a fixed] an arcuate path by a movable object, said apparatus comprising:

a member movable along a fixed [said] arcuate path to a position along said path corresponding to the relative position of the object;

a plurality of spaced [insulated] contacts insulated from one another and positioned along at least one side of said path, said movable member contacting one of said plurality of contacts located at the current position of said movable member along said arcuate path ;

data-storing means [operatively connected to said plurality of contacts, said data-storing means] including a corresponding plurality of memory locations each of which stores [a] preset, different distance measurement data [and each of which is respectively operatively connected to one of], means coupled to each of said plurality of contacts for respectively electrically connecting each of said plurality of contacts to each of said plurality of memory locations [said plurality of contacts], each of said distance-measurement data stored respectively in said plurality of memory locations being uniquely associated with the relative location of said one of said plurality of contacts along said path to [which said memory location is operatively respectively connected; and]

output means [operatively] connected to said data-storing means; and means connected to said plurality of contacts for applying a control signal to the one of said memory locations that is connected to the one of said plurality of contacts then in contact with said movable member, said control signal being effective to transfer the distance-measurement data stored in the said one of said memory locations to said output means;

whereby said movable member [being] is effective as it moves along said path to [engage one of said contacts, thereby to] cause only the distance-measurement data stored in the said one of said memory locations [then operatively connected to said one of said contacts] to be applied to said output means.

9. The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising a voltage source, said member being effective when in electrical contact with one of said contacts to place an associated one of said memory locations in circuit arrangement with said voltage source and to provide said control signal to said one of said memory locations.

17. A method for determining the distance traveled by a movable object along [a fixed,] an arcuate path, said method comprising the steps of:

arranging a plurality of fixed, spaced and insulated contacts along at least one side of [said] a fixed arcuate path;

moving an electrically conductive member along said path by an amount representative of the relative movement of said object, thereby causing said movable member to make electrical contact with one of said contacts;

storing respectively a corresponding plurality of different preset distance-measurement data in a corresponding plurality of data-storing locations in a memory respectively [operatively connected to said plurality of contacts], the distance-measurement data stored in said plurality of data-storing locations being respectively uniquely associated with one of said plurality of contacts; electrically connecting each of said plurality of

contacts respectively to each of said plurality of data-storing locations through a corresponding plurality of conductors; and

causing [the distance-measurement data stored in] a control signal to be applied over one of said plurality of conductors to the one of said data-storing locations associated with and [operatively] connected to, the one of said plurality of contacts then contacted by said movable member and thereby causing the distance-measurement data stored in said one of said data-storing locations to be applied to an output device.